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REPORTS ON OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES AT THE GDR "EAST" METALLURGICAL COMBINE

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TECHNICAL REPORTS ON THE EKO

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A. Defects Noted in Furnace I Which Have Resulted in Structural Changes in Furnace II

1. The upper portion of the steel supports of the skip hoist interfered with the gas outlet pipes. The Bleichert firm, in Leipzig, was to blame for this error in design.
2. The space between the cold-air sliding valves and the Cowper stoves was too narrow to allow the counterbalance arm to traverse its prescribed path. The pipe connections were lengthened from 250 millimeters to 300 millimeters.
3. The cast-iron counterbalances for closing the shutters on the coke and ore bunkers were found to be too light. The supplier, SAG (Soviet Corporation) Mackensen Machine-Building Plant, Magdeburg, will make the necessary adjustment.
4. It was found that the pneumatic cylinder used to raise the small furnace-top bell would not work at a pressure of less than 8.7 atmospheres. However, the compressors were not able to produce so high a pressure. The counterbalance weight was reduced from 4.8 tons to 3.4 tons, and now the cylinder works satisfactorily.

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5. The dry valve on furnace I turned out to be of rather poor design. A valve of improved design has been installed on furnace II, and another is ready to replace the one now in use on furnace I.

6. When the fuel-gas sliding valves were connected to the Cowper stoves of furnace II, it was found that valves of the prescribed design would fit only furnaces I and III, for furnaces II and IV, the drive bracket had to be attached somewhat lower.

7. The covers on the blowers buckled. The suppliers, EKM (Federation of People-Owned Enterprises for Power Plant Machinery and Motors) Bitterfeld, will put in stronger trussing to prevent any further buckling.

8. The blow-out doors originally planned for the highest point in the gas exhaust pipe were 500 millimeters in diameter. These proved to be too small. In furnace II, doors 1,000 millimeters in diameter were installed.

9. It was found necessary to move the cold-air pipes so that the fittings on the Cowper stoves could be interchanged quickly. The alteration has been carried out on furnace II and will presently be carried out on furnace I.

10. In the pig-casting machine, a temporary slag-removal device will be attached to the hot-metal ladles. The tipping stands necessary for this operation will be made by the Moserthin firm in Leipzig. In addition, a hoist will be attached to the trolley runway to make possible quick replacement of the pouring spouts.

B. Structural Shortcomings Noted But Not Yet Altered

1. A trolley runway for the replacement of Cowper stove fittings is absolutely necessary. The ZKB has worked out designs for approval by the EKO, but so far the EKO has done nothing in this matter.

2. To prevent endangering the trusses of the pneumatic cylinder if the furnace should blow out, the foundations for the trusses should be on the same level as the furnace foundations, not lower, as they are now. This suggested type of construction will be carried out on furnace III.

C. Structural Faults Observed in Furnaces I and II for Which Remedial Measures Will Be Taken in Furnaces III and IV

1. From furnace III on, the supports of the hot-air pipes will be relocated to facilitate the installation of the Cowper stove fittings.

2. Because of the position of the probe bar, the balancing supports had to be relocated. As a consequence of relocating the supports, the fastening of the discharge hopper must also be altered. SAG Polysius in Dessau has been informed of this.

3. The EKO desired a relocation of the gas line running from the wet valves to the blowers. The change could not be carried out on furnace II, but has been made on furnace III and will be made on subsequent furnaces. The new location of the line necessitated attaching a bracket to the blower supports.

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The diameter of the inner platform is to be increased by 200 millimeters. The tapping platform is to be relocated. The slag platform will have stronger supports. To protect the carbon lining (Kohlenstoffstampfmasse) of the furnace

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walls, the openings through which the blast pipes extend into the furnace will be surrounded with a layer of firebrick. There has been some change of plan regarding the projected relocation of the furnace cooling pipes, occasioned in part by the installation of additional measuring instruments and in part by structural considerations. The ZKB has not yet obtained any written statement on these changes from the EKO.

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Iron-tapping platform -- The crane runway will be raised one meter. The minimum distance between the upper edge of the trolley carriage and the lower edge of the frame is to be 800 millimeters. The electric cable line will be fastened to the lower edge of the frame. The platform will support the same weight as the platforms at furnaces I and II, and in addition there will be a layer of sand over the whole platform one half meter deep. Catwalks will be erected on both sides of the platform. The crane track will be strengthened. Sliding doors are to be installed on the side of the platform which is open to the weather. The entire platform is to be roofed. The roof covering is to be of precast concrete slabs with sheet metal louvers. The platform floor is to be of steel concrete (without sheet metal). An additional pair of supports is to be installed in front of the control room, as a substitute for the booms.

Slag-tapping platform -- The supports will be strengthened by cross-bracing. The platform floor is to be of steel concrete (without sheet metal). The hand rails will be raised.

Furnace-top bell -- It is intended to alter the base and the supports of the pneumatic cylinder used to raise the bell.

DECREE SETTING UP A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EKO

[A decree was issued by the GDR Council of Ministers on 14 February 1952 setting up a commission to study the situation at the EKO and make recommendations. The decree states:]

To accelerate the elimination of all shortcomings and weaknesses in the setting up of the EKO, Furstenberg/Oder, there is hereby established a commission of four experts: who, for a period of 3 months, shall assume supreme coordinating authority in all activities at the plant, including production, technical installations, and the erection of buildings. Fritz Selbmann, Minister of Metallurgy and Mining, shall be chairman of this commission; the members of the commission shall be Graduate Engineer Zieger, Fritz Walter, and Rudolph Rossmelisel.

The commission is responsible for improving the technical and industrial equipment and the work organization.

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